Reforming government support to fisheries

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IISD webinar, 7 September 2020
Addressing the potential detrimental impact of fisheries support on sustainability

Support impact on the sustainability of resources

Type of support policy

Management (e.g. TAC)

Health of harvested stocks

Deterrence of IUU fishing
Policies lowering the cost of inputs are the most likely to encourage unsustainable fishing

SUPPORT REPORTED IN THE FSE DATABASE FOR 2018 = 9.7 BILLIONS

Effective fisheries management is a pre-requisite to effective support

Effective fisheries management is essential to limit the scope for government support to create incentives to fish unsustainably AND to effectively improve fisher welfare.

BUT no country has perfect management and enforcement:
- About a third of assessed stocks overfished
- A significant share of most valuable species still not under Total Allowable Catch limitations
- IUU fishing still pervades global fisheries

→ Extra caution is required where:
  • Stocks are overfished
  • Information about the health of fish stocks is lacking
  • Fisheries are “open-access” or particularly subject to IUU fishing

→ Parallel efforts needed to improve fisheries management & fight IUU fishing globally
Reform bonus: redirecting support has the potential to also improve welfare and equity

Support policy objectives

Welfare & equity

Climate

Food

Sustainability of resources

Competitiveness
The OECD Fisheries Support Estimate (FSE) database: a key resource to identify reform priorities

Intensity of fisheries services financing relative to fleet size
- Infrastructure
- Management, control & surveillance
- Research & development
- Education & training
- Fishing communities
- Marketing & promotion
- Access to infrastructure

Intensity of direct support relative to employment
- Income
- Insurance
- Capacity reduction
- Fuel*
- Other variable inputs
- Fixed inputs

Access to infrastructure

USD/gross ton of fleet capacity

USD/fisher
Contact us
We look forward to hearing from you!

Access all of the fisheries & aquaculture information from the Trade & Agriculture Directorate at:

www.oecd.org/tad/fisheries

You can reach us via e-mail by sending your message to the following address:

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We invite you to connect with us on Twitter by following:

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